opportunities over the 10th Plan period. Out of these, nearly 2 crore have to come from specific employment generation programmes and 3 crore from growth buoyancy. The special employment generation programme will be implemented in the rural area also.

Government is also implementing special programmes for eradication of poverty and generation of employment in the rural areas. These include Swama Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SJGSY), Jawahar Gram Smriddhi Yojana (JGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and Food for work programme. These schemes/programmes are expected to reduce the incidence of unemployment/underemployment in rural areas as also to check migration of people from villages to cities.

(c) and (d) As per the estimates available from labour force surveys of National Sample Survey Organisation estimated number of unemployed persons in rural areas has gone up from approximately 3.35 million in 1993-94 to 4.38 million in 1999-2000.

Impact of liberalisation

† 2426. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consequent upon new economic policy, near about one lac factories have been closed down throughout the country and almost one crore labourers have lost their jobs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken in the interest of the labourers in this age of economic liberalisation; and

(d) whether labour laws providing justice to the labourers would be made more effective, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) According to information provided by Labour Bureau, 2165 industrial units have closed down and approximately 1.57 lakh workers have been affected since 1992.

(c) and (d) Safeguards are provided under various labour legislations

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to protect the interests of the workers. However, review and updation of these laws is a continuous process. Amendments in the Trade Unions Act, 1926 and the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 have been carried out recently.

Besides this, a scheme for counselling, re-training and re-deployment of rationalized workers of Central Public Sector Undertakings has also been introduced from 2001 -2002 with a thrust on self-employment of the rationalized employees.

ESI benefits to workers

2427. SHRIMATI S.C. INDIRA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has held that a worker shall be entitled to ESI benefits from the date of employment and not from the date of contribution/registration for such facility;

(b) if so, whether rules are being amended to provide for such a facility;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The provisions of ESI Act and the Rules & Regulations made thereunder already provide that employees in respect of whom contributions are or were payable under the Act are entitled to benefits subject to fulfilling the qualifying conditions.

Employment growth in organised industry

2428. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that growth of employment in organised industry and services both in the public and the private sector has lagged far behind the overall growth of the economy;